

CONFIDENTIAL

13 September 1960

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: [REDACTED]

Viewers

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1. [REDACTED] and I visited [REDACTED] on Thursday, September 8, 1960, to determine the possible delivery dates of these instruments. There are only two problems remaining to delay the receipt of these instruments. The first problem is the basic design of the illumination system to produce Koehler illumination. The approach [REDACTED] took to solve this problem was to mount the light so that a right angle bend was necessary before the film stage. This was done, I suppose, to conserve space in the instrument. This is a rather elegant solution to what would seem to be a simple problem if it were handled by a plain 45° angle mirror and a field lens mounted above this to accomplish the conversion of an illumination at the nodal point of the projection lense. However, instead of this simple solution, they have elected to grind a complex aspheric mirror which gathers, perhaps more effectively, the light from the source and directs it to the nodal point. This aspheric surface is generated and all four mirrors involved form one block setting at a complicated grind procedure. The results of the first two tries left a ridge in the mirror which causes a distinct band of illumination differences across the middle portion of the screen which is intolerable.

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2. Because of the delay and lack of confidence in [REDACTED] capability to accomplish this fairly complicated system, I made the decision that work would stop on 21 September whether the instrument was finished or not, and that all materials would be delivered in the assembled as is condition. This decision was made in order to avoid spending more money in the present overrun situation. I believe that either [REDACTED] illumination system, which he has proposed to PIC or some other system by [REDACTED] could readily be substituted to solve this problem. I am very concerned about the performance of [REDACTED] on this project and I am anxious to see this project terminated at the earliest possible date. The two weeks allowed will permit them to make one further grinding of these aspheric surfaces to eliminate this distortion. Under the circumstances this was the most fair and objective course of action I could take.

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